weight and thus malnourished. In India the National Family Health Survey-ll, (1998-99) has estimated that about 30% of all new borns are under weight at birth.

Water supplied to Railway coaches

*517. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the mechanism for filling water in the coaches;

(b) whether any quality check is done on water supplied to the Railways especially water supplied to the pantry cars in various trains; and

(c) what is the process and what are the results thereof

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) The water tanks in the coaches are filled using flexible pipes connected to the main water pipe line provided for the purpose at nominated locations.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Water supplied for various applications like taps on platforms and other passenger areas, for filling in coaches including pantry cars etc. is periodically tested by Railway's Medical Department for bacteriological fitness and residua! chlorine content for potability. Generally 90% to 92% samples are found conforming to standards. Results of remaining tests are analysed and necessary corrective measures are taken.

Electrification of rail routes in Assam

*518. SHRI URKHAOGWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not extending the provision of electrification of rail routes towards Assam, the gateway of North-Eastern-Region;

(b) whether Government would contemplate any policy to extend electrification on any part of the rail routes in the region in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Electrification of railway track is a need based exercisefahich is reviewed on a continuous basis. Investment on Railway Electrification is primarily based on. the traffic requirement of the system and those sections which are considered necessary, are taken up for electrification.

At present, there is no perspective plan for electrification towards Assam in North-East Region.

(c>and (d) Does not arise in view of above.

Creation of new tiger reserves

† *519. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Government for saving tigers which are fast disappearing from tiger reserves;

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal to create new tiger reserves; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is no evidence to draw a general conclusion that tigers are fast disappearing from 28 Tiger Reserves in the country except in case of Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan where there has not been any sighting of the animal during last few months. The measures taken by the Government of India for tiger conservation are given in Statement I (See below).

(b) and (c) Starting with nine in 1973-74, the number of Tiger Reserves in the country has risen to 28 by 1999-2000. The Steering Committee of the Project Tiger, in its 37th meeting held on 23-01-2003, has recommended creation of eight new the list Tiger Reserves in given Statement -II (See below). Action has been initiated on the proposals received from the states concerned to obtain the approval of the Central Government.

Further the Steering Committee of the Project Tiger, in its last 38th meeting held on 12-04-2005, has not favoured creation of new Tiger

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.